

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER INITIATIVE  
BIENNIAL MEETING**

**EL PASO, TEXAS  
November 3- 4, 2003 AEI Paso Convention Center®**

Welcome to the official website for the *Biennial American Heritage Initiative Meeting Preserving Economic, Ecological and Historical Assets of River Communities on The Rio Grande*. The 2003 theme, *Our Texas Treasure: The Mighty Rio Grande*,

One of the goals for the meeting is to bring together professionals from varying entities such as industry, academia, local, state, and federal agencies to discuss ideas, success stories, challenges and current trends and technologies into solutions for the environmental issues and the economic development of communities along The Rio Grande. We also want to discuss how the AHRI program has worked with a number of river communities toward a common goal. This is an opportunity for our community partners to share the accomplishments and challenges encountered among all the different community organizations. These organizations and communities will also demonstrate that they have the either the same or similar goals of redeveloping and working towards a benefit for the river communities along the Rio Grande.

The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Basin Coalition and the EPA, River Navigator for the Rio Grande will be hosting this meeting along with assistance from a number of federal partners. The topics for discussion will deal with numerous activities, which will include how alternative solutions are utilized to solve community problems and discuss common issues along the Rio Grande, such as heritage tourism. We will also be discussing the three American Heritage Rivers Initiative tools; heritage tourism, economic development and the protection of the environment on the Rio Grande with River communities. This is also our opportunity to share with the other 13 national AHRI River Navigators and their river community stakeholders who will travel to El Paso to hear our successes as well as our challenges with the Rio Grande.

We believe that your participation and assistance for planning the next steps for the AHRI program will guide us in a positive direction for the development, continuation, and integration of all the different programs that are working towards improving the benefits of the communities along the Rio Grande.

We welcome all you and your community organizations to come and share in discussing our initiative goals, and encourage an open dialogue with our community partners. We are looking forward to seeing you at the meeting and hearing your ideas that will provide assistance and future guidance to our river communities. We believe that your presence and contribution are a very important link and the river communities hold the key for the success of this meeting.